**IN THE CLAIMS/**

Please make the following claim substitutions:

1     1. (Currently amended)     A method for use in a communications endpoint, the

2     method comprising the steps of:

3     determining a signature of a communications channel, wherein the signature of

4     the communications channel is a second order statistic of a signal-to-noise ratio of a

5     signal received from the communications channel;

6     performing power control over the communications channel wherein the power

7     control compares a metric value and a target metric value, such that the target metric

8     value is adjusted as a function of the determined signature of the communications

9     channel.

1     2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the metric is a bit error rate (BER).

1     3. (Canceled)

1     4. (Currently amended)     The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step

2     includes the steps of:

3     collecting signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) values of a the signal received from the

4     communications channel; and

5     calculating the second order statistic of using the collected SNR values to

6     determine the signature of the communications channel.

1     5. (Canceled)

1     6. (Original)  The method of claim 1 wherein the communications endpoint is a

2     wireless endpoint.

1     7. (Original)  The method of claim 1 wherein the metric is a symbol error count.

1     8. (Currently amended)     The method of claim 7 wherein the determining step

2     includes the step of monitoring a the symbol error count of a the received signal for

3     determining a standard deviation of the received symbol error count; and the performing

2

4    step includes the step of adjusting a target symbol error count for the received signal as

5    a function of the standard deviation for use in providing the power control.

1        9. (Currently amended)    The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step

2    includes the steps of:

3        monitoring a symbol error count of a the received signal for determining a

4    standard deviation of a received symbol error count;

5        setting a target symbol error rate as a function of the standard deviation; and

6        wherein the performing step includes the step of

7        adjusting a target signal-to-noise ratio for the received signal depending on the

8    difference between the set target symbol error rate and the actual symbol error count

9    produced by the receiver.

1        10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the performing power control step

2    performs symbol error count based reverse outer loop power control with adaptive

3    symbol error rate targets.

1        11. (Currently amended)    A method for use in a communications endpoint, the

2    method comprising the steps of:

3        receiving a signal from a wireless endpoint;

4        developing a second order statistic from the received signal based on a signal-to-

5    noise ratio of the received signal; and

6        performing power control with the wireless endpoint as a function of the second

7    order statistic.

1        12. (Currently amended)    The method of claim 11 wherein the developing step

2    includes the steps of further comprises:

3        calculating a second order statistic of a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the

4    received signal; and

5        adjusting a bit error rate target value as a function of the calculated

6    second order statistic;

7        and the performing step includes the step of performing reverse-link outer loop

8    power control as a function of a comparison between a bit error rate value of the

9  received signal and the adjusted bit error rate target value.

1      13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the communications endpoint is a
2  wireless endpoint.

1      14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the power control is a symbol error
2  count based power control.

1      15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the developing step includes the
2  step of monitoring a symbol error count of the received signal for determining a
3  standard deviation of the received symbol error count; and the performing step includes
4  the step of adjusting a target symbol error count for the received signal as a function of
5  the standard deviation for use in providing the power control.

1      16. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the developing step includes the
2  steps of:
3          monitoring a symbol error count of the received signal for determining a standard
4  deviation of the received symbol error count;
5          setting a target symbol error rate as a function of the standard deviation; and
6          the performing step includes the step of adjusting a target signal-to-noise ratio for
7  the received signal depending on the difference between the set target symbol error
8  rate and the actual symbol error count produced by the receiver.

1      17. (Currently amended)  A method for use in a communications endpoint, the
2  method comprising the steps of:
3          measuring a signature of a fading environment, wherein the measuring includes
4  calculating a standard deviation value of a signal-to-noise ratio of a received signal; and
5          performing power control by adjusting a target metric value as a function of the
6  measured signature.

1      18. (Canceled)

1      19. (Currently amended)  The method of claim 17 wherein the measuring step
2  includes the step of calculating a standard deviation value of the SNR, and wherein the

3    performing step uses the standard deviation value of the <u>signal-to-noise ratio</u> ~~SNR~~ to

4    adjust the target metric value.

1        20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the metric value is a bit error rate

2    (BER).

1        21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the performing step

2    adds a value to a signal-to-noise ~~(SNR)~~ ratio target value, wherein the added value is

3    selected as a function of the measured signature of the fading environment.

1        22. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the performing step includes the

2    steps of:

3        estimating a bit error rate (BER);

4        comparing the estimated BER to a target BER value; and

5        adjusting a target signal-to-noise ratio value as a result of the comparison by

6    adding a value to the target signal-to-noise ratio;

7        wherein the value added to the target signal-to-noise-ratio is selected as a

8    function of the measured signature.

1        23. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the communications endpoint is a

2    wireless endpoint.

1        24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in a communication endpoint,

2    the apparatus comprising:

3        a receiver for receiving a signal;

4        a controller for (a) developing a signature of ~~the~~ <u>a</u> communications channel from

5    the received signal<u>, wherein the controller further determines the signature of the</u>

6    <u>communications channel by collecting signal-to-noise ratio values of the received signal</u>

7    <u>and by calculating a second order statistic of the collected signal-to-noise ratio values</u>;

8    and (b) performing power control over the communications channel by adjusting a target

9    metric value as a function of the signature of the communications channel.

1        25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 further comprising a decoder for

2    decoding the received signal and wherein the metric is a bit error rate (BER) of the

3      decoded received signal.

1          26. (Canceled)

1          27. (Canceled)

1          28. (Currently amended)     The apparatus of claim ~~27~~ <u>24</u> further comprising a
2      memory for storing a look-up table which maps values of the second order statistic to
3      adjustment values for use in adjusting the target metric value.

1          29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the metric value is signal-to-
2      noise (SNR).

1          30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the target metric value is a
2      target signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and the controller adjusts the SNR target value by
3      adding a value to the SNR target value, wherein the added value is selected as a
4      function of the developed signature.

1          31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the communications endpoint is
2      a wireless endpoint.

1          32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the metric is a symbol error
2      count.

1          33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the controller monitors a
2      symbol error count of the received signal for determining a standard deviation of the
3      received symbol error count; and adjusts a target symbol error count for the received
4      signal as a function of the standard deviation for use in providing the power control.

1          34. (Original) An apparatus for use in a communications endpoint, the apparatus
2      comprising:
3              a decoder for decoding a frame of a received signal and for providing a signal
4      representative of log-likelihood ratios with respect to information bits of the decoded
5      frame;
6              a bit error estimate generator responsive to the signal representative of the log-

7     likelihood ratios for providing a bit error rate estimate; and

8     a processor for performing reverse outer loop power control (ROLPC) over a

9     communications channel wherein the ROLPC performs a comparison between the bit

10    error rate estimate and a target bit error rate value such that the target bit error rate

11    value is adjusted as a function of a signature of the communications channel.

1     35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the processor further

2     determines the signature of the communications channel by calculating a second order

3     statistic of a received signal-to-noise ratio (SNR).

1     36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 further comprising a memory for storing

2     a look-up table which maps values of the second order statistic to adjustment values for

3     use in adjusting the target bit error rate value.

1     37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the communications endpoint is

2     a wireless endpoint.

1     38. (Currently amended)   Apparatus for use in equipment for providing power

2     control in a cellular system, the apparatus comprising:

3     a receiver for receiving a signal from a wireless endpoint;

4     a controller for (a) developing a second order statistic from the received signal,

5     wherein the controller calculates the second order statistic of collected signal-to-noise

6     ratio values of the received signal, and wherein said second order statistic is used to

7     determine an adjustment to a target metric value; and (b) performing power control with

8     the wireless endpoint as a function of the second order statistic.

1     39. (Canceled)

1     40. (Currently amended)   The apparatus of claim ~~39~~ 38 wherein the metric

2     value is a bit error rate (BER).

1     41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the power control is a symbol

2     error count based power control.

1     42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the controller monitors a

2 symbol error count of the received signal for determining a standard deviation of the

3 received symbol error count; and adjusts a target symbol error count for the received

4 signal as a function of the standard deviation for use in providing the power control.

1 43. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising a

2 transmitter for transmitting power control information to ~~the~~ a mobile station.